

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USIS NAIROBI SENT USINFO WASHDC SECSTATE
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SECSTATE WASHDC FOR AFE, AFI

MEDIA REACTION FOR IOP, IAA, IBS, IPS

SUBJ: PRESS COMMENT HORN OF AFRICA: SHAH OF IRAN, SIAD BARRE

1. IN SECOND EDITORIAL SUBJECT BARRE-SHAH TALKS WITHIN FEW DAYS
INDEPENDENT DAILY NATION, REFLECTING VIEWS TOP GOK OFFICIALS,
INVEIGHED AGAINST POSSIBLE IRANIAN MILITARY SUPPORT TO SOMALIA,
STRONGLY CRITICIZED SOVIET ROLE IN AREA AND URGED THAT OUTSIDE
POWERS FLEX THEIR MUSCLES ELSEWHERE. TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. QTE...THE SHAH OF IRAN'S STATEMENT THIS WEEK THAT HIS COUNTRY
WILL NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT IF ETHIOPIA INVADES SOMALIA IN RETALIATIO
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FOR BACKING SOMALI-SPEAKING SECESSIONISTS THERE IS DEPLORABLE.
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3. QTE...THE STATEMENT FOLLOWS A VISIT TO TEHRAN BY SOMALI PRESIDENT
MOHAMED SIAD BARRE IN WHICH, OBVIOUSLY, HE SOUGHT HELP AGAINST
ETHIOPIA FROM THE SHAH.

4. QTE...IT APPEARS THAT THE SHAH, WHO IS KNOWN FOR BEING EXTREMELY
ANTI-COMMUNIST, WAS WON OVER BY PRESIDENT BARRE'S QUESTIONABLE REA-

SONING THAT IT IS ETHIOPIA THAT IS ADANGER TO PEACE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

5. QTE...DURING HIS VISIT, PRESIDENT BARRE SAID SOMALIA HAD NO TERRITORIAL CLAIM TO EITHER ETHIOPIA OR KENYA, BUT HE ADDED AND WE QUOTE: "WHEN THE WESTERN SOMALIA LIBERATION FRONT ACHIEVE FREEDOM THEY CAN GO THEIR OWN WAY. WE HAVE NO AMBITIONS."

6. QTE...AS WE NOTED LAST WEEK, THIS WAS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF AN EFFORT TO BEND ELEMENTARY REASONING, AND INDDDED COMMON SENSE, TO EXPLAIN AN OBVIOUS SITUATION; ALSO THAT IT WAS AN INSULT TO PEOPLE'S INTELLIGENCE. IT WAS AN ARGUMENT, WE ADDED, THAT WOULD NOT HAVE EARNED A PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPIL A PASS MARK IN MOGADISHU.

7. QTE...THIS IS BECAUSE PRESIDENT BARRE'S GOVERNMENT HAS ADMITTED IT IS GIVING MATERIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT TO THE WESTERN SOMALIA LIBERATION FRONT OSTENSIBLY TO FREE THE SOMALI-SPEAKING PEOPLE IN THE AREA FROM SO-CALLED ETHIOPIAN "IMPERIALISM" IN THE OGADEN.

8. QTE...HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE CONCEPT OF A GREATER SOMALIA NATION AS ADVANCED BY THE MOGADISHU REGIME CLAIMS THE VERY TERRITORY THAT IS OSTENSIBLY BEING CLAIMED BY THE WSLF.

9. QTE...IT IS NO WONDER THEN THAT EVEN JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE VISITED THE OGADEN AT THE INVITATION OF THE WSLF HAVE COME OUT CONVINCED THAT REGULAR SOMALI TROOPS ARE DOING THE FIGHTING USING TANKS AND MISSILES
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10. QTE...IT IS APPARENT THAT, HAD SOMALIA NOT CLAIMED THE OGADEN AND NORTH-EASTERN KENYA IN VIOLATION OF EVERY SINGLE CLAUSE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO CONFLICT IN THE AREA.

11. QTE...FOR THE SHAH OF IRAN, THEREFORE, TO BUY SUCH ARGUMENTS AS PRESENTED BY PRESIDENT BARRE - THAT HIS COUNTRY IS NOT AN AGGRESSOR-RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS. THE SHAH, IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE, HAS BEEN ARMING HIMSELF TO THE TEETH OSTENSIBLY TO DEFEND HIS COUNTRY FROM POSSIBLE SOVIET AGGRESSION.

12. QTE...IT IS, THEREFORE, CONCEIVABLE THAT HE IS NOW SEEKING TO EXTEND HIS WAR AGAINST COMMUNISM INTO AFRICA WHEN THE BATTLE HAS NOT VEN STARTED WHERE IT LOGICALLY SHOULD - ALONG THE IRANIAN-SOVIET BORDER.

13. QTE...IRAN'S STANCE IS PRESUMABLY BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE CURRENTLY ARMING THE ETHIOPIANS, JUST AS THEY ARMED THE SOMALIS BEFORE THEY INVADED ETHIOPIA.

14. QTE...WE DO NOT IN ANY WAY WELCOME THE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIET IN

ETHIOPIA ANY MORE THAN WE WELCOMED THEM IN SOMALIA. ALL THEY HAVE EVER
R
DONE IS PLAY BOTH ENDS AGAINST THE MIDDLE AND LEFT HAVOC IN THEIR
WAKE IN THE WHOLE AREA.

15. QTE...WHAT WE DO FEEL IS THAT THE SHAH SHOULD NOT MEDDLE DIRECTLY
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IN THE AFFAIRS OF ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY. ALL OF AFRICA SAYS THAT POWER
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OUTSIDE THE CONTINENT WHICH WISH TO FLEX THEIR MUSCLES SHOULD DO
SO ELSEWHERE. END QUOTE. ENDUSINFO UNQUOTE. VANCE

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